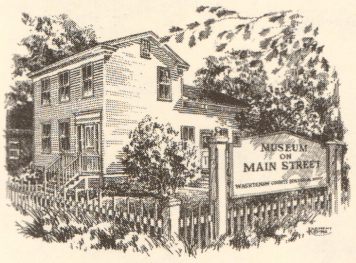
APRIL2008



IMPRESSIONS

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER • FOUNDED 1857

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Published Seven Times A Year
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www.washtenawhistory.org

Annual dues: January-December individual, $15; couple/family $25; student or senior (60+) $10; senior couple $19; business/association $50; patron $100.

RICHARD L. GALANT, PhD

President's Letter

Volunteers and their contributions to the success of a non-profit group are often overlooked, but sorely needed. WCHS is always seeking volunteers help its operation. Volunteers are needed to serve as docents, work on membership recruitment, prepare an exhibit, log in the artifacts of the Society's historical collection, contribute to writing a newsletter, or help in maintaining the building and grounds of the museum. As you can see, a large menu of volunteer opportunities is available. Call us at 734.662.9092 if you would like to help.

Recently, Ms. Susan Nenadic gave a talk on her special historical interest in Washtenaw County – *Working Out: The Employment of Women in Washtenaw County: 1823 – 1914*. I found Susan's presentation helpful to me by giving a better appreciation of my great, great grandmother's work environment. Also, a new exhibition is on display at MoMS, Kitchens: 1830 – 1950. MoMS is open from Noon – 4:00 pm on Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Finally, a new board-member-at-large has joined us. She is Ms. Jo Anne Nesbit. Welcome, Jo Anne!

JAN E. TRIPP

WCHS Website

Visitors to our web site (http://washtenawhistory.org/) will find a number of new things. We've added a "Washtenaw County Historical Consortium" page with information about our local museums and attractions, an interactive events calendar of county historical events, and numerous Washtenaw related history links. Past museum exhibits now have their own web pages and we've moved pages around to make them easier to find. Our web site remains the place to quickly find the latest information on upcoming WCHS events and how to contact us.

We are collecting statistical website usage data through Google Analytics to better understand who uses our website and what information they are looking for. This has already resulted in changes that we hope will make it easier to find information and attract more visitors to our web site. We hope to be able to offer more content in the future of interest to our members. Any ideas or suggestions are always welcome!

Jan E. Tripp
(Jan_Tripp@comcast.net)

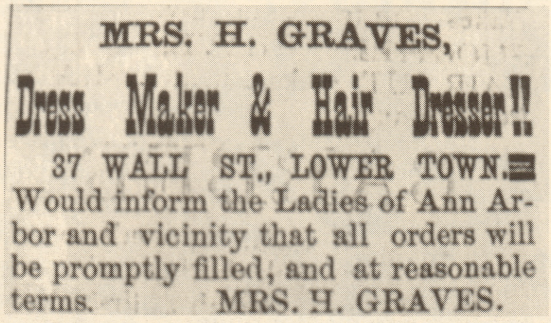
Mystery of the Red Dot

Many have wondered the purpose of the RED DOT in a recent mailing. Membership in the Washtenaw County Historical Society runs from January through December each year. Notices are mailed in early January of the year to avoid the mail rush at holiday time. The current remit envelope was inserted into a flier showing the activities of the Society and the envelope was "tacked" inside the folded flier with a "sticky" RED dot so that the envelope would not fall out. THAT is the answer to the mystery of the purpose of the "little red dot."

SUSAN NENADIC

Working Out: The Employment of Women in Washtenaw County: 1823-1914

Researching history is like playing Scrabble but with only half the letter tiles. If it is women's history, one must endeavor to form a winning combination with even fewer bits of information. Primary sources such as diaries and letters are few and far between, and secondary sources so far have provided a rather inaccurate view of women's experiences.



MRS. H. GRAVES,

Dress Maker & Hair Dresser!!

37 WALL ST., LOWER TOWN.

Would inform the Ladies of Ann Arbor and vicinity that all orders will be promptly filled, and at reasonable terms. MRS. H. GRAVES.

Advertisement for the services of Mrs. H. Graves

Credit: Wystan Stevens provided Hannah Graves ad from a old paper he owns

For example, a well-known history of Ann Arbor states that the first stores were practical, selling things settlers would need such as shovels, saddles, etc. Not until the 1840s does the author mention a woman operating a millinery shop. The reader is left to infer that there were none earlier. The surprising truth is that within a decade of settlement, Ann Arbor had millinery and dressmaking shops such as that of Mrs. Spencer, who in 1834, made hats and sold "fancy goods." Even earlier, Mary Beers operated a millinery and dressmaking shop.

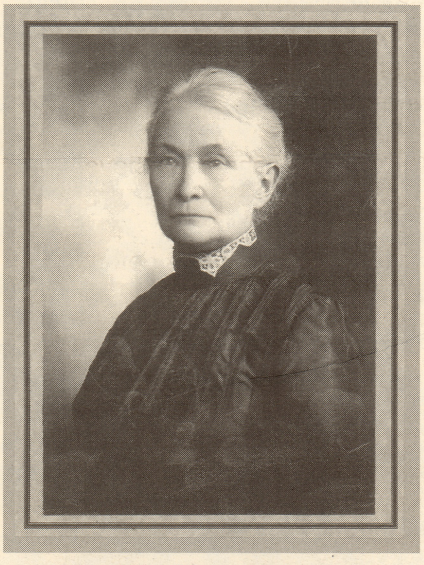
The same is true for Ypsilanti. Another example of misleading secondary sources would be Chapman's *History of Washtenaw County* published in 1881. In many ways this is an invaluable source of information, but it fails to provide an accurate picture especially concerning women. In many cases women are simply not included; however, in other cases their participation was distorted. In its discussion of mills in the county, it carefully lists 12 men working in 3 breweries and 60 men working for 22 coopers; however, when recording employees at four tanneries, two woolen factories and a woolen mill, the text refers to "persons" or "hands." At first, a reader simply thinks the author is varying his diction. Whatever the author's motivation, the effect of his word choice is that he camouflaged the fact that many of those employees were women.

Picture of Sophia Hartley, Medical Doctor

From Bentley Historical Library

As a result of my research, one thing became self evident: I needed to re-evaluate all my preconceived notions about women in the nineteenth century, including their health, their education and especially their employment. It isn't that the picture I had in my mind did not exist; it is that so much had been left out of that picture as to render it a distortion of reality.

We have been told that women did not work. That is true for a good many nineteenth century women. The cult of domesticity was preached in the pulpit and in popular magazines. But such a statement belies the fact that many women did work. They worked in the sewing trades; they operated inns and boarding houses; they owned businesses and provided a wide variety of needed services. One of the popular occupations for women which emerged before the Civil War was that of photographer. Lucretia Gillett of Saline opened her photographic shop in 1858. Harriet Osborne of Manchester



Ms. Julia King, instructor at Michigan Normal School

From EMU archives

soon followed. About a dozen women in the county subsequently earned a living in this way. Another emerging occupation was that of beautician. The majority of such women were African-American. Mary Roper of Dexter was a former slave while her younger contemporary, Minna Trojanowski, was a Caucasian woman in Ann Arbor. Both were wives of barbers, as were most such women, and both remained in business for decades.

The notion that many working women were widows is also correct, but it overshadows a more important fact: many women were working with their husbands long before their husbands died. Mary Parsons of Ypsilanti is an excellent example. When her husband (and son) passed away suddenly in 1871, she competently continued their photographic business which she soon expanded. This was a highly skilled occupation. The only way she could have successfully accomplished this was if she were intimately involved in the business before his death. And she accomplished these professional goals in addition to caring for her remaining children.

Eliza Mosher, MD and full professor at University of Michigan
From Bentley Historical Library

Photo of the graduating class of 1854, Michigan State Normal School
From Ypsilanti Historical Society

Another idea that needs modifying is that women only worked because they were destitute. Mrs. Hannah Williamson Graves would indicate this is not true. Hannah, according to Chapman, was the first African-American girl born in Washtenaw County. She married an ex-slave who was gainfully employed as a blacksmith at Ann Arbor Agricultural Tool Co., yet Mrs. Graves was one of the most successful seamstresses in town. She remained in business for over twenty years employing apprentices and assistants. Perhaps Mrs. Graves only sought more financial security, but maybe she found gratification in her work. Without a diary or letters, we simply have no way of knowing.

Ms. Alice Porter, teacher at Ann Arbor High School for four decades
From Bentley Historical Library

Another perception is that women worked because they were single. It is true that many working women were unmarried. A case in point is Sophia Allmendinger who owned and operated a professional laundry in Ann Arbor for over twenty years. She learned her trade as an employee for M.M. Seabolt before opening her own establishment, the White Star Laundry, circa 1894. The stereotype of such a woman is that she was an "old maid" who failed in the marriage market. That also is not necessarily true. As the century progressed, more and more women realized that they had options other than marriage which allowed them to be more selective of their partners or to chose not to marry at all.

Louise Reed Stowell, instructor at University of Michigan
From Bentley Historical Library

Perhaps the most pervasive misconception is that the great movement of the nineteenth century was women's suffrage. That subject seems to dominate textbooks, hence public thinking. Suffrage was, without a doubt, a significant advancement for women; however, it was only be successful in the twentieth century because it was the product of another less well known occurrence in the nineteenth. The life changing revolution of the nineteenth century was not suffrage but education.

A high school diploma in the last quarter of the century could land a woman a job in an office as a bookkeeper or stenographer. Office work was one of those new options available to women after the Civil War, when the vast majority of high school graduates, a requirement for employment, were female. Unlike later when secretaries became underpaid and overworked, early clerical employees earned excellent money. A trained stenographer could make $700 a year while a semi-skilled male might earn only $450. To cope with the increasing need for trained office personnel, public high schools initiated business curricula, and private schools like Cleary College opened. Until women could obtain a college preparatory, secondary education and matriculate at universities, they would never be able to enter the professions. Thus, the first step to full employment was education.

While the entire nation in 1860 could boast only forty such public schools, Washtenaw County offered three: Ypsilanti's, Ann Arbor's and Dexter's. There girls could take the same academic classes as boys, and these better educated women could teach at higher levels. Just one example will have to suffice: Alice Porter. Miss Porter taught Latin at Ann Arbor High School for over forty years. Born in 1853 in Ann Arbor, she was a bit late getting started due to poor vision, but once her parents bought her glasses, there was no holding Porter back. Hers was a formidable intellect. She amazed her students by reciting Caesar's commentaries by heart. Miss Porter's contributions were recognized by an award given in her name each year to the outstanding female graduate.

Another significant development was the establishment of normal schools to improve education. Michigan State Normal School was the fifth such institution in the nation and the only one west of the Alleghenies. To attend, one needed to be sixteen or older and promise to teach at least two years after graduation. The women who took advantage of this opportunity are too numerous to list. Miss Abigail Rogers, however, stands out, not as a graduate but as a teacher. She was the first preceptors of both Ypsilanti's high school and of the Normal School. Rogers believed, however, that women needed yet a higher level of education than the Normal School provided. Since the University of Michigan refused to allow women to enter its hallowed halls, Miss Rogers moved to Lansing in 1855 and opened the Michigan Female College which she supervised until her death fourteen years later. She never received any financial support from the State of Michigan.

The University of Michigan reluctantly opened its doors to women in 1870 – ironically the same year as the first official football game. Women flocked to its campus. The medical school was particularly popular graduating 400 women by 1894. Many graduates such as Berthe Van Hoosen, Lydia deWitt and Alice Hamilton went on to famous national careers. Sophia Hartley,

Advertisement for ladies' beauty services
From Ann Arbor Public Library materials

who graduated in 1875, chose to stay in Ann Arbor practicing medicine for over a quarter of a century. Dr. Hartley was a German immigrant, the widow of a Dr. Meindermann of Adrian. There were quite a few other female doctors in both Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, but I have found none practicing in any of the other towns or village in Washtenaw County.

Fewer women studied law. It was an even more hostile environment than medicine. Several of those who did, however, remained in the area practicing law. Mary Foster was the first to do so. Mrs. Foster was the fourteenth woman in the United States to receive a law license. She began her practice in 1876. Another Mary opened her office doors eleven years later. She was Mary Collins Whiting. The truly amazing thing about these women, besides the fact that they both were named Mary and both had ties to Lodi Township, is that they were both 52 years old when they began their careers as attorneys.

There were women who studied pharmacy and engineering though none stayed in the area after graduation. The first female licensed dentist in the county was Anna Dieterle. She graduated from Ann Arbor High School and worked as a book-keeper before entering the dental school as the only woman in a class of 32. She graduated in 1904, the only woman in her class. She was the 32nd woman to graduate from the dental school.

University degrees also allowed women to begin teaching in colleges and universities. The first woman to teach at the University of Michigan was Louise Reed Stowell. Miss Reed received her bachelors and masters degrees in 1876 and 1877 respectively. She was offered $2500 in gold if she would go to Japan and open a school. Despite the fact that the amount was more than any professor at Michigan earned, she declined. Instead she married Professor Stowell and taught microscopical botany for twelve years at the University for a salary of only $700. Mrs. Stowell and her husband moved to Washington, D.C. in 1889 where she became very well known as the author of textbooks and professional articles. The President of the U.S. appointed her to commissions, and she was elected to the Royal Society of London. Sadly, this impressive woman is not listed as a faculty member in the University's faculty directory. She represents, however, more than two dozen women who were part of the faculty in the nineteenth century.

Mary Collins Whiting, early attorney in Washtenaw County
From Ann Arbor Public Library materials

It remained for Eliza Mosher, who graduated in 1875 with Sophia Hartley, to become the first female hired as a full professor in 1896. That is the good news. The bad news is that, despite her medical degree, the medical school would not have her, so she was a professor of hygiene and physiology in the literary school. She also served as the first dean of women. For those services she was paid the same salary as any male professor, a fact that caused considerable criticism.

In many ways, Michigan State Normal School was more welcoming to women than the University of Michigan. In 1868, before Michigan even opened its doors to women, 4 of the 11 faculty members at the Normal School were women. By 1900 the faculty was predominantly women. Julia Ann King of Milan was also paid the same salary as the highest paid males at the school. Having herself graduated from the school in 1859, she returned to head of the history department and serve as preceptress. Her Friday "conversations" were attended by several hundred of students and Ypsilanti women.

Time unfortunately permits only this brief survey of women's employment. We have had no time to discuss women in the newspaper business, women who developed real estate, women wrote books or painted or performed music. The list could go on and on. Despite the pervasive popular view that women should not work outside the home, they did. Need propelled them. For some, it was the need for life's basic substances: food, clothing, housing. For others, the need was more emotional, spiritual and intellectual. It was the need to fulfill their talents and curiosities. It was the need to follow that inner voice that told them they could do something more significant with their lives. As Dr. Helen McAndrew's son said, "She had a talent for nursing; she could hire her housework done." Whatever their motivation for working, the reality is that they were in the work force in increasing numbers in the nineteenth century.

ALICE CERNIGLIA • MUSEUM DIRECTOR

The Kitchen 1830-1950.

On Exhibit at the MOMS from March 15-May 18, 2008

Here is a brief look at the history of the American kitchen!

A modern kitchen is generally equipped with a stovetop, microwave, refrigerator, dishwasher, sink and other amenities. All of these appliances are what help people to cook their meals effectively and in an orderly fashion. Kitchens also tend to have installations so that food can be stored and kept in a cool dry environment.

Before the age of electricity, running water and modern appliances, there was no kitchen, as we know it today. There was a hearth for cooking, perhaps a table or cutting board for preparation and a dining area in a central gathering place. In the pioneer home, that "gathering place" was the very same area that occupied the living and sleeping space.

Even in post-Revolutionary times, when separate bedrooms and kitchen wings were added, the hub of the house remained the hearth. Nearby sat a small table for food preparation and a simple array of iron pots, pans, and utensils. These were handed down from generation to generation.

It was not until the Victorian era (beginning in the 1840s) that technology began to ease the burden. The Victorians loved anything innovative - they wanted the latest, the newest, the most modern. In 1842, Catherine Beecher published her "Treatise on Domestic Economy" which detailed techniques for household chores including cooking.

By 1850, the first cast-iron cook stove — small, portable and fired by coal or wood -- hit the market, followed by stoves on a grander scale. There is no overstating their impact. As Plante writes in her kitchen history, the stove "altered American cookery methods and meal planning, while at the same time relieving the housewife or cook of multiple backbreaking chores such as lifting and moving heavy iron cookware."

In 1869 Catherine Beecher, in collaboration with her sister Harriet Beecher Stowe, published another book, "The American Woman's Home." This book contained detailed diagrams of a modern kitchen, which included a counter with storage beneath and shelves above.

From here, the technological tide would not be stemmed. Even as post-Civil War kitchens were downsized to reflect the newly servantless household, every shelf and cupboard overflowed with gadgets — appliances large and small that increasingly savvy manufacturers were rushing to produce for these suddenly solo housewives. Depending on the course of electric service, a woman could, by the 1920s, buy any number of "helpmates" — an ice box, a vacuum cleaner, a washing machine and an electric iron. There was linoleum on her floor, a hot-water tank near her sink and store-bought foods in her pantry.

And if she were really modern, as every housewife clamored to be, there was a Hoosier cabinet front and center. A descendant of the "baker's cupboard" (pie safe), this six foot pine workstation boasted pull-out bins, utensil drawers and a wooden preparation surface. The wildly popular design - the Hoosier Manufacturing Co. turned out 600 a day - was perhaps the first recognition that a kitchen was not just a batch of unrelated parts. "The kitchen started out as a great big room with a huge fireplace and minimal appliances," says Roslyn architect and preservationist Guy Ladd Frost, "but as appliances were invented, we started to build kitchens around them."

At the beginning of the 20th century, the kitchen became defined as a separate room for food preparation. Technological advancement introduced new appliances, which constantly expanded the square footage needed in an average kitchen. In urban areas, the kitchen, although larger, was hidden away to isolate the fumes and clutter caused by food preparation. There was nothing visually attractive about the kitchen, so home owners used it only for preparation. Dining was done in a separate space.

With the advancement of technology, the idea of standardized dimensions took the kitchen to a whole new level. Since the availability of electricity, the equipment used has remained a standard in all kitchens for many years. These include hot and cold tap water, a kitchen sink and an electric or gas stove and oven. Later, the refrigerator was added as a standard item, along with the addition of the microwave and the dishwasher.

Indeed, by the 1930s, with the electric stove and electric refrigerator in place, the kitchen became the "darling" of the house, planned and decorated as carefully as any other room. Walls of new houses came equipped with built-in kitchen cabinets, the main storage components of a modern kitchen. The cabinets were generally made from a wood product with front panels to keep the contents inside and out of view from guest or daily kitchen use.

Gadgets were marketed in a variety of styles. And the appliances that were available only in white during the hypersanitized early 1900s were now, in the 1950s, colored splashy reds or greens or blues.

But if urban centers dominated American kitchen trends for generations, the suburbs took the lead after World War II. Some of the most radical ideas were played out in Levittown, where Abraham Levitt & Sons, in its zeal to build houses that were both different and cheap, applied assembly line technology and Frank Lloyd Wright form-follows-esthetics theory to the home. Alfred Levitt switched the kitchen from the back of the house to the front, boasting in an ad for the 1949 ranch that, "It's just a step for your wife to answer the door," and insisting that a front kitchen could better serve as domestic "control center." And what a center! William Levitt, the financial force behind Levittown, installed mass-produced state-of-the-art wares - white metal Tracy cabinets (even the White House had them), Bendix washer, General Electric refrigerator and stove.

And the Levitts weren't the only ones rethinking domestic life. "In the late '40s, people like dinnerware designer Russel Wright brought modernism into the kitchen," says Amy Kraker, expert in vintage American dinnerware. "Russel and Mary Wright also wrote a guide to 'easier living' that told housewives, step by step, how to entertain."

Things have come full circle as the kitchen is again the hub of the home. In our exhibition we look at the development of the kitchen and food preparation from 1830 through 1950.

Kosky Wood Stove From WCHS

Kempf House Museum

Noon Lecture Series • Spring 2008

Wednesdays, noon to 1:00 P.M. Admission, $2.00 (members, $1.00)
Parking is available in the large public lot just south of the House.

312 S. Division St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • (734) 994-4898
www. kempfhousemuseum.org

April 2

Judith Anders
Octagon Houses.
Judy, an author and historical researcher, looks at Octagon Houses in general, and the Washington Township Loren Andrus House in particular.

April 9

Grace Shackman
A Tale of Four Villages.
Grace, a local historian, will compare the histories of Saline, Manchester, Dexter, and Chelsea, showing how each has its own personality.

April 16

Duffy Liddicoat
Central Mine, a Location in the Keweenaw Peninsula.
Duffy, who summers at Central Mine, Michigan, will speak about that ghost town now being brought back to life. This 1853-1898 mining town was close to extinction when the few remaining buildings were restored to represent what life might have been before the mine closed.

April 23

Stephanie White
& George Van Sickle
Adventures with our Four Footed Athletes.
Wilderness experts, this couple has led many groups on exciting trips. One of the most recent was the Iditarod dog sled race of 2007 in Alaska.

DALE R. LESLIE

Simon's Spot in Ann Arbor's Backbone

How many lives has Harold Simons touched in his over 40 years in education, as an athlete, a coach and most importantly a teacher? On how many occasions has Harold softly but firmly shared these reminders to all students: be true to yourself but not focused on personal desires; recognize that the ultimate reward of athletic competition is not measured by Ws in the record box but by the satisfaction of exceeding your own expectation; and, in the role of a humble champion, maintain a high level of respect and courtesy for your opponent and an appreciation of the essential, tremendous support from the coaching staff, school administrators, teachers, parents and fans?

John Fountain, former Sports Information, acting EMU athletic director, Information Services head and Eastern Michigan University vice president, has these recollections of Harold Simons (see attached photo, coach Jim Dutcher and Captain Simons):

Harold Simons (Si) is one class guy who played a pivotal role in EMU's growth from a Presidents Athletic Conference team to a power in the Mid American Conference.

Si came to EMU in the mid-sixties from Ann Arbor High School as an undersized six-foot forward. Recruited by Dick Adams, Si was a valuable, young player on one of the first EMU teams that I had the pleasure to cover.

A year later when coach Jim Dutcher came to Eastern Michigan from Alpena Community College, he installed Si as his point guard. The move was magical. Si was a coaches' dream as a playmaker. He was really an extension of his coach on the playing floor, directing traffic, involving his teammates and making every player better.

Under Simons leadership, EMU made its first appearance in history in a post season basketball tournament when the then Hurons played in the 32-team NAIA National Tourney in 1968 in Kansas City. It was at that tournament that unknown EMU upset Stephen F. Austin, the number two seed, in the opening round 82-80 on a last second shot by another Ann Arbor High School standout, Earle Higgins.

Si was the captain of that team that included Harvey Marlatt, and Kennedy McIntosh. Following graduation Si took his coaching talent from the playing floor to the sidelines serving first as an assistant to Dutcher and later to Al Freund.

When he failed to become the new Eastern Michigan head basketball coach when Freund left (many on the committee thought he should have been named), Si moved on to become a successful coach/teacher at Ann Arbor Huron High School. Harold had the special pleasure of coaching he and Ethel Simons' twin sons (they were guards too!) at AA Huron HS.

I can honestly say in all my years covering athletics at EMU, I have never met a person who personified what collegiate athletics should be better than Harold Simons.

P.S. And he accomplished all his feats on the court with the smallest hands of any basketball player I've known. In fact, they are about the size of my hands, and I can't palm a basketball.

The Sutton Schoolhouse

The Sutton Schoolhouse, a one room school on Sutton road, was built in 1859. Because it was managed by the Lenawee Intermediate School District, it has been preserved and protected for the past 148 years. Today, however, it is threatened with demolition.

Recently, the Lenawee Intermediate School Board met to consider the school's fate. A plan had been proposed whereby a number of local non-profit organizations would take responsibility for the property, but the amount of money necessary to preserve and upgrade the school was out of reach for these organizations. The main reason the preservation of the school was not viable financially appears to be two fold. First, the use of the school would have to be re-designated from educational to a more public-use building and would need specific and expensive upgrades to meet state requirements. Second, the School District was only offering a 5 year lease on the property. The organizations involved could not justify committing the necessary resources for a guarantee of only five years of use.

It looked as if the end of the Sutton School was just a vote away. However, the School Board reconsidered and has delayed a final decision regarding the demolition of the school for 60 days.

We at the Tecumseh Area Historical Society would like to suggest some possible alternatives to the destruction of the Sutton School. We feel that the building could be preserved as an important historical structure, used to benefit the county and to

benefit a number of non-profit organizations. If the Lenawee Intermediate School District was willing to offer an extended 50 to 100 lease, or relinquish ownership of the school and a very small amount of land around it, we believe that the necessary resources can be made available.

Either the extended lease or the change of ownership could be granted to a non-profit organization specifically established to preserve the building and use it for the benefit of the community. The Tecumseh Area Historical Society would be willing to bring together a number of local groups, (some of which have already been approached and responded favorably) and help establish a trustee organization to manage the property.

This solution would not only protect and preserve the Sutton school, but it would also save the Lenawee Intermediate School District the cost of demolition and clean up, which they have stated could run into tens of thousands of dollars.

We realize that the School Board is trying to do what is right regarding management of the public trust they have been given. It is important, we feel, to remember that a public trust involves more than just finances, it also involves the wise and forward thinking management of the properties entrusted to the School District. Properties in this case, include a significant historical building and in reality, belong not to the board or the school district but to the tax-paying people of Lenawee County.

We encourage the Board of the Lenawee Intermediate School District to agree to a long term lease or relinquishment of ownership of the Sutton School to an organization which will devote itself to the historic preservation of the building. This building is part of our heritage and part of the educational heritage of the county, the state and the nation. Let's work together to protect it and preserve it for generations to come.

Tecla Loup
Kim Koch
Sue Koch
Kern Kuipers 517-605-0572
and Lisa Powell 517-423-2374

Upcoming Events

The EMU Preservation Society will be holding the 80th birthday party/open house for the Packard Proving Grounds on Sunday, April 27 from 1-5 PM. This is just a "save-the-date" preliminary notice. More details to come!

HISTORY OF THE SALINE RIVER Date: Wed 16 Apr 2008 Time: 7:00 PM Location: Saline Senior Center Great Room, 7190 N. Maple Rd., Saline, MI Description: Join Saline High School History Students, under the direction of James Cameron, as they present "The History of the Saline River". Learn about the ancient and not-so-ancient animals who came for water and salt licks, Native Americans who used the waterway for travel, French explorers who canoed the river, English pioneer settlers who came from the East and established basic businesses along the river, and the settlers who built houses, farms, and a village along its banks.

Education programs are always free and light refreshments will be served. Members and friends are welcome.

Directions: Look for green and white signs in the school parking lot. They will direct you to the Senior Center, which is on the back side of Saline Middle School (old high school). There is plenty of parking and no need to walk very far. Contact: Society Office 734-944-0442 Email: salinehistory@verizon.net

SATURDAY VISITS AT RENTSCHLER FARM & SALINE RAILROAD DEPOT Date: Sat 3 May 2008 Time: 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Location: Saline, MI Description: The Summer/Fall Season at Rentschler Farm runs May 3 through early December. The Depot Museum is open year round. Free Guided Tours for Individuals and for Families are offered at both museums. Groups larger than ten MUST have a reservation. To schedule groups, call the numbers shown below at least a week ahead.

Directions: Rentschler Farm is at 1265 E. Michigan Ave. (one mile east of downtown Saline). Enter through the shopping center and park within the farm complex. Saline Railroad Depot Museum is at 402 N. Ann Arbor Street, just four blocks north of downtown Saline and near the corner of Bennett Street (traffic light). Contact: Farm: 734-944-0442; Depot: 734-429-1254 Email: salinehistory@verizon.net

Salem Historical Society: WEDNESDAY, Apr 23rd — 7 PM "Methods and Resources for Genealogy Research" by Linus Drogs at Jarvis Stone School

MUSEUM ON MAIN STREET
A Museum Of County Life

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Post Office Box 3336
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

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WEDNESDAY • 6 TO 8 PM
MAY 21, 2008
WCHS ANNUAL MEETING
POT LUCK SUPPER
& ELECTION OF OFFICERS
RENTSCHLER FARM
1265 E. MICHIGAN AVE.
SALINE, MICHIGAN
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Fundraising for the *Impressions*

Have you ever gotten a gift of 21,000 sheets of 11 by 17 inch paper? We did!

We are pleased that the *Ann Arbor News* is donating 21,000 sheets of paper in support of a year's worth of WCHS newsletters. We think that that is a wonderful "in-kind" contribution. Additionally, the S I Corporation will be co-sponsoring an issue. In February, we wrote to more than ninety companies, groups and individuals asking if they could contribute the cost of one issue or share the cost with another contributor and have received these responses, thus far.

Our newsletter, the *Washtenaw Impressions*, is our best form for public relations. It is published seven times yearly, omitting January, June, July, August and December. Usually a thousand copies are sent to members, donors, other historical societies, some school libraries and some groups that have indicated an interest in our work.

Each newsletter is eight to twelve pages and features the "hard copy" of the talk given at the general meeting the previous month. We include many images that accompanied the talk and information about other societies in Washtenaw County that would be of interest to our readers.

As is with everything else these days, the cost of producing the newsletter is taking more and more of our general funds. Non-profit bulk mail postage averages sixteen cents per copy and with composition and printing of a thousand copies, the cost of each copy averages one dollar. The Society appreciates these donations and hopes that you enjoy the articles in the *Impressions*.

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Washtenaw County Historical Society is to foster interest in and to elucidate the history of Washtenaw County from the time of the original inhabitants to the present. Its mission shall be to carry out the mandate as stated through the preservation and presentation of artifacts and information by exhibit, assembly, and publication. And to teach, especially our youth, the facts, value and the uses of Washtenaw County history through exhibits in museums and classrooms, classes, tours to historical places, and other educational activities.

WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Museum on Main Street ***A Museum of County Life***
500 North Main Street at Beakes & E. Kingsley Streets
(734) 662-9092 / eMail: wchs-500@ameritech.net
Web: www.washtenawhistory.org
Mailing Address: **Post Office Box 3336**
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48106-3336

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The Washtenaw County Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) organization.

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 through December 31, 2007

The WCHS's Annual Meeting was held at the Dexter Area Historical Museum and their members were kind enough to give our member guided tours of the Gordon Hall. The usual bountiful pot-luck supper was enjoyed by all. Elections were held and we welcomed two new board members: Leslie L. Loomans and Jan Tripp. Patti Smith, a director-at-large was elected to be a director, also.

2007 was the Sesquicentennial anniversary of the founding of our Society. We celebrated in June by dedicating a flag pole donated by David Fox of Fox Tent & Awning Company on which we fly an 1857 reproduction flag. On Sunday, July 29th, local dignitaries, past presidents, past WCHS board members, members and friends gathered under a large, white tent adjacent to our museum and enjoyed food and beverages catered by Food Art.

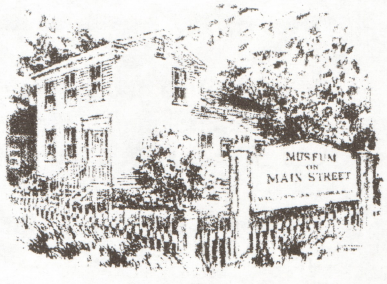
In addition to the *CHRISTMAS LIGHTS, ORNAMENTS & TREES* exhibit which extended to January 2007 three new exhibits were designed and mounted. The exhibit that ran from mid-February through May 2007 was *ONE-ROOM SCHOOLHOUSES of WASHTENAW COUNTY*. That was followed by *THE SESQUICENTENNIAL EXHIBIT* which ran from mid-June through September and had an attendance of more than 300 visitors. In mid-October, *WINTER HOLIDAYS* featuring Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Chanukah, New Year's and Valentine's Day displayed artifacts for our collections and items loaned for the exhibit.

The Society looks forward to continued success in our endeavors and good relationships with our members and friends. Your interest and loyalty are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Galant

Richard L. Galant



WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

January 1 – December 31, 2007

BEQUEST COMMITTEE *Tom Freeman*

The Bequest Committee was established by the Washtenaw County Historical Society Board of Directors in late 2001 to manage the receipt of the bequest from the Doris Ann Bach Estate. The assets comprising the Bequest Fund are managed according to the Bequest Fund Guidelines, as established by the Board of Directors of the Washtenaw County Historical Society. In addition, the Board of Directors has engaged the firm of AXA Advisors, LLC to provide investment management services related to the Bequest Fund.

The Bequest Fund Guidelines require the Bequest Committee to provide monthly reports on the status of the investments in the Bequest Fund to the Board of Directors and annually to the members of the Society. In response to the requirement to report annually on the status of the investments in the Bequest Fund, the Bequest Committee submits the following:

BEQUEST FUND
ACCOUNT ACTIVITY SUMMARY
January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

Beginning Value as of 01/01/07:	$735,488.13
Additions:	0.00
Withdrawls:	(20,000.00)
Dividends / Interest:	23,121.91
Change in Investment Value:	25,189.78
Ending Value as of 12/31/07:	$763,799.82

BEQUEST FUND
ANNUAL RATE OF RETURN

January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007: 6.6%

COLLECTIONS *Judy Chrisman*

The seemingly never-ending process of organizing the collection has made great progress over the past year. Matching up unnumbered items with old registers is challenging but very satisfying when a match is found.

In addition to working with items already in the collection, new items continue to come in. Each donation can range anywhere from one item to 100 or more items, all of which have to be processed. Each separate item has to be numbered, described, photographed and stored archivally. All of the information, including photograph, is then entered into the museum PastPerfect software. The software automatically generates a deed of gift and thank you letter for the donor. Features in the software allow for later searching by many different categories making it easy to find items for display, research or to answer inquiries.

In the past year new additions to our collection were donated by Catherine Stoughton, Helen Snedeker, Charles Thrall, Kathleen Wurster, Theophil Aprill, Jr., Susan Wineberg, Marion West, Arthur French, Marilyn Duncanson, Shirley Willits, Richard Ziegler, Deborah Pittman, Elizabeth Neidhardt, Sandra Cole, Carol Hannum, Wendy Raeder, Patricia Creal, Kent Joscelyn, Cynthia and Ovide Pomerleau, Dorothy Lenz, Margaret Joanne Nesbit, Sarah Caswell Angell Chapter of the DAR, Marilyn Couture, Beth Smiley, Margaret Stevenson, Mark Hogan, Pat Haskell, Dr. Ruth Heyn and Cynthia Yao.

GARDEN

In celebration of our Sesquicentennial year, the garden committee worked with Master Gardener, Lillian Ferguson, to prepare the garden for the big event. Ms. Ferguson designed and implemented a 'shooting star' floral carpet bed around the newly installed flag pole. The Aprill family generously donated funds for the garden. In the Fall, the garden committee planted dozens and dozens of bulbs including some prize bulbs donated by Old House Gardens. Also, the Board voted to have an automatic sprinkler system installed in the front and side yards. The gardening committee is most pleased for this assistance.

FUNDRAISING

In 2007, our endeavor was a small notepad that was mailed to our members and friends.

GIFT SHOP *Sue Kosky*

There were two additions to the gift shop this year: a book rack (purchased with funds donated in memory of the late Alice Ziegler, our newsletter editor for 25 years) and a lockable jewelry case, giving us more display space. Jewelry made by Washtenaw County artisans is featured in addition to handmade jewelry from Costa Rica. Books remain a popular item including books purchased from a selection featured on our web site; **http://washtenawhistory.org/index.php?section=giftshop&content=books**

MEMBERSHIP *Pauline Walters*

In 2007 the Society had 554 members and donors: Members: 445; Patrons: 19: Life Members: 15; Business: 6; Business Patrons: 5; Library: 4 and Honorary: 3. All together there were 253 donors of which 199 were also members and 57 who were donors to various funds.

Post card reminders of the upcoming seven monthly General Meetings are mailed to members and donors.

NEWSLETTER – *Washtenaw Impressions*

We welcomed a volunteer newsletter editor in 2007, Patti Smith.

PROGRAM *Ralph Beebe*

February	ONE-ROOM SCHOOL HOUSES – Linda Chapman – Cobblestone Farm Barn Joint meeting with Cobblestone Farm Association
March	CARNEGIE LIBRARY PROJECTS – Connie and Charles Olson Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S Fifth Avenue
April	DIXBORO UNITED METHODIST CHURCH REMODELING PROJECT – Ilene Tyler Dixboro United Methodist Church, Dixboro
May	ANNUAL MEETING and election of officers – pot luck supper Dexter Area Museum
September	ANOTHER ANN ARBOR – AFRICAN-AMERICANS – Carol Gibson David Byrd Center, Lohr Road, Ann Arbor
October	UNBUILT UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BUILDINGS – Fred Mayer University Commons, Asa Gray Drive
November	ART IN WASHTENAW CEMETERIES – Wystan Stevens Ypsilanti District Library, Whittaker Road

WCHS WEB SITE *Jan E. Tripp*

Visitors to our web site (http://washtenawhistory.org) will find a number of new things. We've added a "Washtenaw County Historical Consortium" page with information about our local museums and attractions, an interactive events calendar of county historical events, and numerous Washtenaw related history links. Past museum exhibits now have their own web pages and we've moved pages around to make them easier to find. Our web site remains the place to quickly find the latest information on upcoming WCHS events and how to contact me: Jan_Tripp@comcast.net

We are collecting statistical website usage data through Google Analytics to better understand who uses our web site and what information they are looking for. This has already resulted in changes that we hope will make it easier to find information and attract more visitors to our web site. We hope to be able to offer more content in the future of interest to our members. Any ideas or suggestions are always welcome.

Washtenaw County Historical Society

Income and Expenses

January through December 2007

	Jan - Dec 07
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Activity Income	928.92
Bach Estate Sales	344.00
Donations	10,120.44
Endowment	1,352.00
Fundraising	6,492.50
Interest / Dividend	24,723.53
Membership Dues	8,727.00
Postage Repayment	20.38
Shop Sales	2,403.45
Total Income	55,112.22
Expense	
Accounting Fees	700.00
Activity Expense	7,882.29
Bank Charge	6.00
Bank charge- checks	14.99
Board expenses	-33.77
Contractor Fees	3,258.28
Dues & Memberships	520.00
Education Expense	150.26
Fees	216.00
Fundraising expense	2,666.00
Grounds	4,730.49
Impressions	8,604.30
Insurance	2,193.75
Memb. Drive	20.28
Membership	590.91
Museum Collections	1,428.48
Office Supplies	1,177.00
Operation of society	35.00
Payroll Expenses	23,890.88
Program Expenses	1,573.99
Repairs & Maintance	2,197.50
Security System	971.36
Shop Expenses	24.20
Shop Inventory	2,551.55
Telephone	1,404.78
Utilities	4,250.87
Total Expense	71,025.39
Net Ordinary Income	-15,913.17
Net Income	**-15,913.17**

Respectfully submitted
Patricia A Reed, Treasurer

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